

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00

OIC-02 SSO-00 /074 W

-----131807Z 057341 /47

O 131645Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3966

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6048

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, CON

SUBJECT: SECOND SESSION OF FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

REF: (A) STATE 74931 (B) ROME 5852 (C) ROME 3454

1. SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) BEGAN ON APRIL 13, 1977 WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EIGHT NEW MEMBERS. IN AFTERNOON VIETNAM, IN LENGTHY BUT NON-POLEMIC STATEMENT, REFERRED TO ITS REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP ON CFS. FAO SECRETARIAT WILL READ OUT ADDITIONAL LIST OF REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON APRIL 14 WHICH WILL INCLUDE VIETNAM. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS IF DEPARTMENT WISHES DELEGATION TO MAKE STATEMENT ON VIETNAM ISSUE.

2. GROUP OF 77 AGREED TO HAVE THEIR STATEMENT ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, AGENDA ITEM V, PUT OFF TO END OF MEETING. IN MEANTIME THEY HAVE UPDATED THEIR STATEMENT, QUOTED BELOW. FURTHER, BRITO AS GROUP OF 77 CHAIRMAN HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED IN STATEMENT AS THEY ARISE UNDER SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS. AT END OF MEETING OTHER ISSUES NOT COVERED WOULD BE RAISED.

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3. USDEL WAS SURPRISED TO READ APRIL 13 AP TICKER STORY BY DON KENDALL QUOTING 13 PASSAGES FROM U.S. POSITION PAPERS FOR CFS MEETING. COMMENTARY ATTRIBUTED TO UN-NAMED U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCE REFERS TO "DOCUMENTS INSPECTED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS".

4. GROUP OF 77'S UPDATED STATEMENT GOES BEGIN TEXT:

AFTER A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN OUR STATEMENT TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (SEE DOCUMENT CFS:77/5), AND IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, WE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR PROPOSALS AND EMPHASIZE THAT THE URGENCY FOR TAKING CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE ACTION ON THEM IS AS PRESSING NOW AS IT WAS LAST YEAR. THE COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTIETH SESSION HAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER OUR STATEMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS ON SOME OF THE ISSUES IN OTHER FORA. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT DURING THE ONE YEAR THAT HAS ELAPSED SINCE WE SUBMITTED OUR PROPOSALS, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THESE ISSUES SO THAT IT WOULD NOW BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL AND PURPOSEFUL DISCUSSION ON THEM AT THIS SESSION WITH THE AIM OF ARRIVING AT ACTION-ORIENTED DECISIONS.

IN OUR REVIEW OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN OUR STATEMENT, WE HAVE TAKEN FULL ACCOUNT OF THE RELEVANT CONSENSUS ALREADY REACHED, OR ACTION THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN SINCE THE FORMULATION OF OUR PROPOSALS, NOT ONLY IN THIS COMMITTEE BUT ALSO IN OTHER RELATED FORA. IN FACT, OUR MAIN PURPOSE IN THIS REVIEW WAS TO IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS WHERE ACTION REMAINS TO BE INITIATED, SO THAT THE DISCUSSION AT THIS SESSION CAN BE FOCUSED ON THESE REMAINING ISSUES. THEREFORE, WHILE FULLY STRESS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING THE NEED FOR EARLY FRUITION OF THE INITIATIVES ALREADY UNDERWAY IN VARIOUS FORA, WE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING AS THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON WHICH CONSENSUS NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED AT THIS SESSION:

1. AS REGARDS THE "OBJECTIVES" OF FOOD SECURITY THAT WE HAVE STRESSED IN PARA 5 OF OUR STATEMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE MORE OR LESS REFLECTED IN THE AGREED OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING, EXCEPT THAT LISTED AS (B), NAMELY 'OBTAINING INCREASING EXPANSION OF FOOD CONSUMPTION IN MALNOURISHED COUNTRIES AND SPECIALLY FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTIONS OF POPULATION'. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE ACCEPTED OBJECTIVES AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND ESPECIALLY WITH THE GOAL OF ABOLISHING HUNGER AND ALNUTRITION WITHIN A DECADE.

2. IN THE LAST TWO SENTENCES OF PARA 6(1) OF OUR STATEMENT, WE HAVE INDICATED THE AREAS FOR SPECIAL

EMPHASIS IN PROVIDING AID. THESE ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE,  
AND WE BELIEVE THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY  
IN ACCEPTING THEM.

3. AS REGARDS PARA 6(2), WE URGE THE COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT  
THE ESTIMATE OF 17-18 PERCENT OF ANNUAL WORLD CONSUMPTION  
OF CEREALS AS THE MINIMUM SAFE LEVEL OF CARRYOVER STOCKS  
TO MEET THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY.  
IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE  
DESIRABLE SIZE OF STOCKS FOR WORLD FOOD SECURITY IS A  
SEPARATE AND DISTINCT ISSUE, WHICH FALLS CLEARLY WITHIN  
THE COMPETENCE OF THIS COMMITTEE. WE, THEREFORE, URGE  
THE COMMITTEE TO ENDORSE AT THIS SESSION THE ESTIMATE  
OF THE MINIMUM SAFE LEVEL OF 17-18 PERCENT. BUT WE  
RECOGNIZE THAT THIS SUBJECT WILL BE TAKEN UP UNDER  
AGENDA ITEM 6 AND WILL THEREFORE NOT PRESS FOR ITS  
CONSIDERATION UNDER THIS ITEM.  
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4. IN PARA 6(4) OF OUR STATEMENT, WE SUGGESTED CERTAIN  
POLICY PROVISIONS THAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A NEW IN-  
TERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT, WHICH THE COMMITTEE AL-  
READY FORMALLY NOTED AT THE FIRST SESSION IN PARA 48 OF  
ITS REPORT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE  
COMMITTEE TO TAKE A FAVORABLE VIEW ON THESE PROPOSALS  
AND TO REQUEST THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO TRANSMIT THEM  
TO THE CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND  
ESPECIALLY THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL FOR  
APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP.

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EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00  
OIC-02 SSO-00 /074 W  
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O 131645Z APR 77  
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5. THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS IN OUR STATEMENT, AND ESPECIALLY IN PARAS 6(5) TO 6(10), WHICH CALL FOR EARLY ACTION FOR STRENGTHENING THE FOOD SECURITY IN THOSE COUNTRIES AND REGIONS WHICH ARE IN SERIOUS NEED. WE APPRECIATE THAT ACTION ON SOME OF THESE PROPOSALS HAS BEEN INITIATED BUT ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THE PROGRESS HAS BEEN SO SLOW AND INADEQUATE. WE, THEREFORE, REQUEST THE COMMITTEE TO URGE AID GIVING COUNTRIES TO ADOPT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THEIR FINANCIAL, FOOD AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AIMS OF THE PROPOSALS IN THESE PARAGRAPHS.

6. WE HOPE THAT OUR ATTEMPT TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES WILL BE RECEIVED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AND THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH CONSENSUS ON OUR PROPOSALS.

7. IN THE END, WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT ONE OF THE IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THIS COMMITTEE IS TO MONITOR THE ACTION THAT IS BEING TAKEN TO EVOLVE A VIABLE SYSTEM OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES, AND ESPECIALLY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE FOOD SECURITY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN BE STRENGTHENED, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, ONLY BY ACCELERATING THEIR OWN FOOD PRODUCTION. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. FOR THIS REASON, WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO INCREASE INFLOW OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES FOR INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE. WE, THEREFORE, SUGGEST THAT THE COMMITTEE IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY SHOULD MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE FROM YEAR TO YEAR INsofar AS THEY ARE RELEVANT IN INDICATING PROGRESS TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY. ALSO, WE BELIEVE THE COMMITTEE SHOULD REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES OF CRITICAL INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZERS AS WELL AS IN THE FIELD OF STORAGE AND RELATED INFRA-STRUCTURE THAT HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON FOOD SECURITY.

8. IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO MONITOR EFFECTIVELY THE PROGRESS TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IT WILL BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH IN APPROPRIATE FORA OF THE ORGANIZATION, SUB-TARGETS FOR CRITICAL VARIABLES, SUCH AS FERTILIZERS, IRRIGATION, STORAGE FACILITIES ETC. WHICH WOULD SERVE AS BENCHMARKS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCH INTERRELATED SUB-TARGETS IS CRUCIAL TO PROGRESS IN FOOD SECURITY. WE, THEREFORE, SUGGEST THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD REQUEST FAO, IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONCERNED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO WORK OUT SUCH SUB-TARGETS IN RELATIONS TO THE DESIRED RATE OF GROWTH IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THIS WORK COULD USEFULLY BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DD3 STRATEGY.

9. FURTHER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD GRADUALLY DEVELOP COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES FOR ACHIEVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOOD SECURITY ALSO IN RELATION TO FOODSTUFFS OTHER THAN CEREALS. WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN THIS BUT BELIEVE THAT THE CONCEPT OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY CANNOT BE FULLY ACHIEVED UNTIL IT COVERS ALL BASIC FOODSTUFFS.

10. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT INTERNATIONAL MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF FOOD SECURITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE SO DESIGNED AS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SELF-RELIANCE IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY, WITH THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF OBVIATING THE DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL FOOD SUPPLIES. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STRESS THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHEN EVOLVING THEIR OWN POLICIES OF PRODUCTION, SHOULD TAKE SPECIAL CARE TO AVOID MEASURES THAT LIMIT THE POTENTIAL FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

11. FINALLY WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT FOOD SECURITY, BEING DEPENDENT ON FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, CANNOT BE DISSOCIATED FROM FAVORABLE CONDITIONS OF TRADE, INCLUDING ACCESS TO THE MARKETS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SO THAT PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS STIMULATED AND FOOD SECURITY IN GENERAL IS IMPROVED. END TEXT. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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